

SECRET

25X1
27 October 1952

STAFF CONFERENCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's
Conference Room, Administration Building
Monday, 27 October 1952, at 1100 Hours

General Smith Presiding



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1. Personnel

The Director, mentioning that the Agency had recently experienced some difficulties in various parts of the world, remarked that these difficulties stemmed, by and large, from the use of improperly trained or inferior personnel. He stated that until CIA could build a reserve of well-trained people, it would have to hold its activities to the limited number of operations that it could do well rather than to attempt to cover a broad field with poor performance. He reminded the meeting that the Agency's primary mission was intelligence and that he would do nothing that militated against accomplishing this objective. He also noted that the difficulties resulted in part from poor security practices, pointing up the need for greater and continuing emphasis on security.

2. Statements to the Press

25X1 The Director, citing the case of a correspondent who had
25X1 obtained a story concerning CIA, asked if it were net
25X1 possible to keep this story from being published or, if published, to
have it so written that it would show no connection with the Agency.

General Smith remarked that when news correspondents request information regarding some story that they might have, involving CIA, they should be told nothing. He added that in rare cases, however, it might be necessary to go to the top man of a news organization in order to kill a story.

25X1 warned against off-the-record remarks. Regarding this, the Director stated that it is safe to make remarks "off the record" only when there is complete censorship, which we do not have in this country.

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